

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 24156

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR OECD'S INCORPORATION OF
ECG/IEP

1. ECG COUNTRY DELEGATIONS TO OECD AS WELL AS OECD SECRETARIAT ARE INCREASINGLY NERVOUS ABOUT THE APPARENT LACK OF EFFECTIVE LOBBYING WITH NON-ECG COUNTRIES, AND THE PERCEIVED ABSENCE OF A CLEAR SCENARIO FOR OBTAINING AFFIRMATIVE COUNCIL ACTION ON IEP BY MID-NOVEMBER. THE DUTCH DELEGATION REPORTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO LOBBYING AS YET IN ATHENS. THE BRITISH DELEGATION CLAIMS NO KNOWLEDGE OF LOBBYING WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. THE GERMAN DELEGATION SAYS THAT FRG LOBBYING WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL AFTER GERMAN CABINET APPROVES IEP ON OCTOBER 23. THE JAPANESE DELEGATION IS PERHAPS THE MOST CONCERNED BECAUSE OF THE ARTICLE 68 PROBLEM.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A GOOD DEAL OF THIS CONCERN MAY STEM SIMPLY FROM THE FACT THAT LOCAL OECD DELEGATIONS ARE NOT FULLY INFORMED OF EFFORTS TAKING PLACE ELSEWHERE. WE HAVE DISCOURAGED VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS TO CONVENE MEETINGS OF OECD DELEGATIONS OF ECG COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A LOCAL LOBBYING EFFORT AND DISCUSSING DETAILED SCENARIO FOR BRINGING IEP INTO OECD. WE HAVE ARGUED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE ACTION IS WITH THE ECG AND IN CAPITALS AND FOR ALBEIT WELL MEANING DELEGATIONS TO GET INTO THE ACT MAY WELL CONFUSE THE SITUATION. WE HAVE URGED INSTEAD (SEE
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USOECD 23410) THAT THE SECRETARIAT CONTINUE DOING ITS

HOMEWORK ON THE DETAILS OF STAFFING OUT IEP.

3. THE LOCAL ANXIETY HERE STEMS NOT ONLY FROM LACK OF INFORMATION ON LOBBYING AND FROM UNDERSTANDABLE ZEAL IN WANTING TO DO SOMETHING; THERE IS ALSO JUSTIFIABLE CONCERN ABOUT THE SCENARIO FOR COUNCIL ACTION. LOCAL DELS FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT (EVEN IF THE FRENCH ASPECT IS CLEARED AWAY) SOME UNINSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR MIGHT NOT RAISE DIFFICULTIES IN THE COUNCIL--THUS REQUIRING AN ADDITIONAL DELAY. HERE AGAIN THE JAPANESE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIAL PROBLEM AND ARE RECOMMENDING TO TOKYO AT LEAST TWO COUNCIL MEETINGS, SAY NOV. 5 AND 12. WE ON THE OTHER HAND BELIEVE THAT THIS APPROACH TO A SCENARIO MIGHT LEAD TO A PARKINSONIAN RESPONSE OF NIT-PICKING DISCUSSION TO FILL THE VOID. ON THE OTHER HAND PRUDENCE MIGHT DICTATE SCHEDULING THE ONE COUNCIL MEETING SAY ON NOV. 12 TO GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME LAST-MINUTE ARM TWISTING IN THE CAPITAL OF A RECALCITRANT DELEGATION.

4. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE TWO ELEMENTS ARE VITAL:

FIRST, BY THE TIME OF THE OECD COUNCIL DISCUSSION EVERY OECD MEMBER MUST HAVE BEEN LOBBIED AND WE SHOULD KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT STANDS.

SECOND, WE NEED A DETAILED SCENARIO OF HOW TO BRING ABOUT THIS RESULT AND A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WHO IS TO DO WHAT. UNTIL THEN UNCOORDINATED AND SPONTANEOUS SUGGESTIONS MAY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

5. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH BOSWORTH AND TARRANT (DURING THEIR CURRENT VISIT) AND HOPE WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THESE ISSUES WITH ENDERS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PARIS.

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